

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, TU

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON TURKISH AID EMBARGO

THE FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS BRIEFING BY THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESSMEN THOMAS E. MORGAN (D.-PA) AND CLEMENT J. ZABLOCKI (D.-WIS) AT 9:37 A.M. FOLLOWING A WHITE HOUSE BREAKFAST MEETING WITH CONGRESSMEN ON TURKISH AID.

QUOTE: THE PRESIDENT: THIS MORNING WE HAD AN HOUR AND A HALF BREAKFAST, A WORKING MEETING WITH A NUMBER OF THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS; THE CHAIRMAN, DOC MORGAN; THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE, CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI, AND THE RANKING REPUBLICAN ON THE FULL COMMITTEE, CONCERNING AN EFFORT TO TRY AND RESOLVE UNCLASSIFIED

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THE LEGISLATIVE PROBLEM OF TURKISH MILITARY AID.

THE ADMINISTRATION, OF COURSE, HAS ASKED FOR A TOTAL REMOVAL OF THE BAN, BUT WE HAVE WORKED WITH THE DEMOCRATIC

CHAIRMAN AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON A
COMPROMISE THAT WILL BE BEFORE THE COMMITTEE TOMORROW.

I JUST WANT TO THANK CHAIRMAN MORGAN AND HIS ASSOCIATES
ON BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE FOR TAKING THE INITIATIVE
IN SEEKING WHAT WE BELIEVE IS A FAIR AND EQUITABLE
SOLUTION.

Q: WHAT IS THE COMPROMISE, SIR?

CONGRESSMAN MORGAN: THE COMPROMISE -- WE WILL START OUT
TOMORROW, HOLD HEARINGS ON THE MANSFIELD-SCOTT RESOLUTION,
AND WE HOPE TO COMPLETE HEARINGS TOMORROW. WE WILL HAVE
THE ADMINISTRATION WITNESSES IN THE MORNING AND, OF
COURSE, THE GREEK WITNESSES IN THE AFTERNOON IN THE OPEN
HEARING.

ON FRIDAY, WE HOPE TO START THE MARK-UP. WE WILL
START THE MARK-UP USING THE SENATE RESOLUTION AND
SUBSTITUTE THE BILL WORKED OUT BY MR. ZOBLOCKI AND
CONGRESSMAN FASCELL AND CONGRESSMAN HAMILTON AND
CONGRESSMAN BROOMFIELD. WE HOPE WE CAN REPORT THAT
OUT SOMETIME ON FRIDAY.

THE SUBSTITUTE REALLY OPENS UP THE PIPELINE ON WHAT
TURKEY HAS BOUGHT AND PAID FOR, PLUS IT RESUMES THE
RIGHTS OF TURKEY TO MAKE CASH SALES IN THE MILITARY
FOREIGN SALES PROGRAM.

THERE IS NO GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE PLUS A COMPLETE
STUDY FOR FUTURE MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID, BOTH TO
GREECE AND TURKEY. THERE IS A CLAUSE, SOME SAFETY
CLAUSES IN THAT THAT THE PRESIDENT DOESN'T LIKE. THE
PRESIDENT HAS TO REPORT TO CONGRESS EVERY 60 DAYS ON
THE PROGRESS OF THE SALES AND THE PROGRESS, OF COURSE,
OF SETTLING THE CYPRUS DISPUTE.
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I THINK IT IS A FAIR COMPROMISE. I THINK WE CAN SELL IT
TO THE HOUSE. THOSE WHO SUPPORTED THE TOTAL EMBARGO
LAST DECEMBER, WHEN WE APPROPRIATED THE FOREIGN AID
BILL, CAN VOTE FOR THIS AND EXPLAIN IT TO THE
GREEK-AMERICAN PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY.

Q: CONGRESSMAN MORGAN, WILL THERE BE ACTION IN THE
HOUSE BY THE 1ST OF AUGUST?

CONGRESSMAN MORGAN: I HOPE TO HAVE ACTION IF WE CAN MOVE
AS RAPIDLY AS WE CAN TO GET IT OUT OF THE COMMITTEE
FRIDAY OR THE EARLY PART OF THE NEXT WEEK AND
IMMEDIATELY APPLY FOR A RULE.

Q: HOW MUCH MONEY IS INVOLVED? HOW MUCH EQUIPMENT?
IS IT MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN THE PIPELINE?

THE PRESIDENT: I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS APPROXIMATELY \$70 MILLION OF TURKISH MILITARY PURCHASES WHICH THEY BOUGHT AND PAID FOR THAT ARE NOT DELIVERED BECAUSE OF THE EMBARGO. UNFORTUNATELY, THEY HAVE NOT ONLY BOUGHT AND PAID FOR THIS EQUIPMENT, BUT THEY ARE BEING CHARGED STORAGE IN THE WAREHOUSES IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE COMPROMISE THAT DR. MORGAN AND THE OTHERS HAVE WORKED ON WOULD FREE THOSE TURKISH PURCHASES, AMOUNTING TO ROUGHLY \$70 MILLION, AND ADD TO THAT THE RIGHT OF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO BUY FOR CASH ADDITIONAL MILITARY HARDWARE.

Q: HOW MUCH?

THE PRESIDENT: THAT IS, I THINK, LIMITED BY THE OVERALL LIMITATION ON FOREIGN MILITARY SALES.

CONGRESSMAN MORGAN: IT WOULD DEPEND ON HOW MUCH MILITARY SALES WORLDWIDE HAVE BEEN PURCHASED. YOU COULDN'T DETERMINE THE FIGURE.

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Q: HOW IS THE CYPRUS COMPROMISE COMING ALONG? I MEAN, IS THERE ANY PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS?

THE PRESIDENT: THERE IS A MEETING BETWEEN DENKTASH AND CLERIDES SCHEDULED FOR JULY 24, AND IF THERE IS ACTION IN THE CONGRESS, IT WILL, I BELIEVE, GREATLY FACILITATE THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THESE TWO LEADERS OF THE TURKISH AND GREEK CYPRIOTS, SO WE ARE HOPING THAT THERE CAN BE ACTION. IF THERE IS ACTION IN THE CONGRESS, THEN THE PROSPECTS FOR MOVEMENT ARE CERTAINLY IMPROVED TREMENDOUSLY.

Q: MR. PRESIDENT, THERE WAS A QUOTE ON ONE OF THE BROADCASTS THIS MORNING SAYING CONGRESSMAN BRADEMAS THOUGHT SOME OF YOUR MEETINGS INVOLVED SOME ARM TWISTING, LIKE THIS MEETING THIS MORNING. HAVE YOU BEEN ARM TWISTING ON THIS SUBJECT?

THE PRESIDENT: NO, I WOULD SAY JUST THE OPPOSITE. I SHOULD ADD THAT IN THE LAST TWO OR THREE WEEKS, I AND SECRETARY KISSINGER HAVE MET WITH CONGRESSMAN BRADEMAS, CONGRESSMAN SARBANES AND CONGRESSMAN ROSENTHAL, PLUS CONGRESSMAN HAMILTON, FASCELL, ZABLOCKI, BROOMFIELD AND

WHALEN AND MAYBE ONE OR TWO OTHERS, IN TRYING TO GET A DIALOGUE STARTED SO THAT WE COULD FIND THE AREAS OF AGREEMENT AND THE AREAS OF COMPROMISE, AND OUT OF THOSE MEETINGS, I THINK, HAS COME THIS COMPROMISE.

Q: MR. PRESIDENT, WHAT DOES THIS COMPROMISE DO TO THE PROBLEM OF THE LAW THAT SAYS THAT OUR ALLIES ARE NOT TO USE AMERICAN WEAPONS AGAINST THEIR FRIENDS AND ALLIES?

CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI: THE COMPROMISE VERY CLEARLY STATES THAT ANY ADDITIONAL MILITARY AID THAT WILL BE SOLD TO TURKEY MAY NOT BE USED FOR OTHER PURPOSES THAN NATO DEFENSE.

Q: DIDN'T THE LAW STATE THAT FROM THE BEGINNING, THOUGH?

CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI: THE COMPROMISE DOES NOT DEAL WITH ANY MATTER THAT HAS TAKEN PLACE IN THE PAST. IT IS UNCLASSIFIED

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RESTATING THE LAW FOR FUTURE USE.

Q: HOW WILL THAT BE POLICED?

THE PRESIDENT: WE, OF COURSE, HAVE U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL IN THE VARIOUS NATO COUNTRIES, AND THEY FOLLOW ON THE SCENE THE END USE OF THE EQUIPMENT.

Q: MR. PRESIDENT, ARE WE PREPARED TO TALK ABOUT RENEGOTIATING THE BASES IN TURKEY NOW?

THE PRESIDENT: THAT IS ANOTHER MATTER OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE. ROUGHLY 30 DAYS AGO THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT INDICATED TO US FORMALLY THAT THEY WANTED TO BEGIN TALKS FOR THE TERMINATION OF SOME OF OUR U.S. BASES IN TURKEY, AND THE DEADLINE FOR THAT IS JULY 17.

WE AGAIN HOPE THAT THERE CAN BE SOME ACTION IN THE COMMITTEE AND HOPEFULLY ON THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PRIOR TO THAT DATE SO THAT WE CAN SAY TO THE TURKS THAT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE, AND IF THERE

IS PROGRESS, THEN WE ARE IN A BETTER POSITION TO TALK WITH THEM WITHOUT ANY ADVERSE DEVELOPMENTS AS TO THOSE HIGHLY IMPORTANT MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN TURKEY.

Q: DO YOU THINK TURKEY WILL ACCEPT THIS, THE COMPROMISE?

THE PRESIDENT: WE THINK IT IS A GOOD COMPROMISE, AND WE WILL DO OUR UTMOST IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO CONVINCE THE TURKS THAT IT IS A SOLUTION THAT WILL LEAD TO THE SETTLEMENT OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM AND TO THE

CONTINUATION OF TURKEY AS A STRONG AND EFFECTIVE
PARTNER IN NATO, PLUS THE GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS THAT
TURKEY AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE HAD IN THE PAST.

Q: MR. PRESIDENT, WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE
DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE?

THE PRESIDENT: THANK YOU VERY MUCH. UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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